

Debra Carrigan, pro se  
7757 Radcliff Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89123  
702-340-7750

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Carrigan Communication Inc. BK=S=23534-LBR  
Debra Carrigan, BK-S-91-24974

AMICUS CURIAE  
Bankruptcy Court  
Judge Linda Riegle

In Re: The Rhodes Companies  
Case #0914814-LBR

I am filing this brief as a friend of the court regarding Bankruptcy Court Judge Linda Riegle.

I have decided to file this Amicus Brief after reading in the newspaper that Judge Riegle refused to recuse herself from the above Bankruptcy case of Rhodes Company.

I had a similar experience with Judge Riegle refusing to recuse herself in my case Debra Carrigan vs Alverson Taylor Mortenson,(ATM) BK-S-91-23534-LBR. Harry Reid is a partner of this law firm. The lawsuit was for millions of dollars.

The case got past the motion to dismiss and advanced to discovery. During that time I read in the newspaper that Senator Harry Reid partner of ATM nominated Judge Linda Riegle EXHIBIT 1 to the position of Federal Judge. Upon learning of this I asked Judge Riegle to recuse herself due to Conflict of Interest, she got very angry and told me "I'm offended" and refused to recuse herself, shortly after that she dismissed the case saying the defendant had immunity even though Ervin Nelson a partner of ATM who was heading up both cases, Carrigan Communications and Debra Carrigan, told Judge Riegle that he was giving me the authority to sue his law firm.

I believe her actions violated many Judicial rules and judgment required of a Bankruptcy Judge.

JK

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I would testify to these facts under oath.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2012.

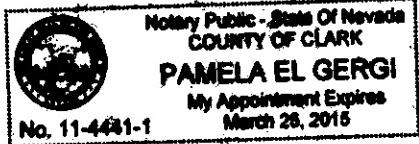
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MAY 2012 CLARK

Respectfully Submitted:



By: Debra Carrigan  
7757 Radcliff St  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89123  
(702) 340-7750

STATE OF NEVADA  
COUNTY OF CLARK  
SUBSCRIBED & SWORN BEFORE ME THIS  
23 DAY OF January 2012 BY  
Debra Carrigan \* \* \* \*  
Pamela El Gergi  
NOTARY



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I have this 24 day of January mailed by US Postal Service First class mail to the following people:

See Attached Pg 3

Nancy Stewart  
Nancy Stewart  
702-353-2237

B93  
JNTADMN, LEAD, BAPCPA, CLMAGT, APPEAL

**U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
District of Nevada (Las Vegas)  
Bankruptcy Petition #: 09-14814-lbr**

*Date filed:* 03/31/2009

*Assigned to:* LINDA B. RIEGLE  
Chapter 11  
Voluntary  
Asset

**Debtor**  
**THE RHODES COMPANIES, LLC**  
C/O DUNHILL HOMES  
ATTN: GENERAL COUNSEL  
6345 S JONES, SUITE 400  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118  
CLARK-NV  
Tax ID / EIN: 20-3613060

represented by **DAVID S. LEE**  
7575 VEGAS DR., #150  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89128  
(702) 880-9750  
Email: [dlee@lee-lawfirm.com](mailto:dlee@lee-lawfirm.com)  
TERMINATED: 06/15/2009

**JAMES I STANG**  
10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD #1100  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

**SHIRLEY S. CHO**  
10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD 11TH  
FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067  
(310) 277-6910  
Email: [scho@pszilaw.com](mailto:scho@pszilaw.com)

**ZACHARIAH LARSON**  
MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING  
10001 PARK RUN DRIVE  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89145  
(702) 382-1170  
Fax : (702) 382-1169  
Email: [cshurtliff@maclaw.com](mailto:cshurtliff@maclaw.com)

**Claims Agent**  
**OMNI MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC (bo)**  
OMNI MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC  
16501 VENTURA BLVD, STE 440  
ENCINO, CA 91436  
(818) 906-8300

**U.S. Trustee**  
**U.S. TRUSTEE - LV - 11**  
300 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD S.  
SUITE 4300  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101

represented by **EDWARD M. McDONALD**  
OFFICE OF U.S. TRUSTEE  
300 LAS VEGAS BLVD., SO., STE 4300  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101  
(702) 388-6600

Two women wait to break judicial nomination logjam

**Y**et another one of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's federal nominees isn't moving forward, at least for now. But the postponement of Las Vegas attorney Ariel Stern's nomination to be a federal judge has opened the door for

But the postponement of Las Vegas attorney Ariel Stern's nomination to be a federal judge has opened the door for

District Judge Elissa Cadish is coming full circle. She was the law clerk for the judge she is now poised to replace, another candidate.

According to municipal court records, Cadish moved to Las Vegas to become a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Philip Pro, who took senior status in December, creating a vacancy for another federal judge on the bench.

Cadish has 20 years of legal experience and became a state judge in 2007. She receives high marks from attorneys. In the most recent "Judging the

Judges' report, 88 percent said she deserved to be retained on the bench. I've known her since she was a law clerk and respect her.

**Jane Ann Morrison**  
COMMENTARY

**In Morrison**  
DOCUMENTARY

If all goes smoothly, she won't have to run anymore; he'll be recommended by Reid for the job and for a lifetime appointment. No more begging for money.

The FBI is conducting a background check on Cadish, a preliminary step to Reid's recommending her at a future date.

Reid interviewed Cadish in 2009 but chose Deputy District Attorney Gloria Navarro instead. Last May, Reid recommended Stern to replace Pro, who continues to work as most

senior judges do. Stern doesn't quite have the 12 years experience the American Bar Association likes to see in a judicial candidate for a job that's a lifetime appointment. He and his wife both worked in Reid's office. But if U.S. District Judge Kent Dawson decides to take senior status later this year, Stern probably will be recommended again by Reid, who as senior senator from the party in the White House, holds nominating rights.

"Ariel Stern remains under active consideration for a future District Court vacancy," Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said.

"In consultation with the White House and Mr. Stern, we determined a delay in his nomination would make him

stronger candidate and would contribute to a smoother confirmation process."

If the Republicans take the White House, however, that could all change because Reid wouldn't be making the pick. Reid has been nominating

Vietnam, Du would be the first Asian-American federal judge in Nevada.

President Barack Obama nominated Du on Aug. 11, but she is No. 11 on the list of federal judges awaiting Senate confirmation. She probably agreed with Obama, who in his State of the Union speech Tuesday asked the Senate "to pass a simple rule that all judicial and public service nominations receive a simple up or down vote within 90 days."

Women and minorities in recent years after he nominated a string of white, male Mormon judges.

Stern was born in Mexico, and his father is a Cuban Jew. Navarro's parents are Cuban immigrants.

Reid's nominations include three firsts on the District Court bench. Johnnie Rawlinson was the first African-American, and Navarro was the first Hispanic woman. Brian Sandoval, now governor, was the first Hispanic state

Last time I wrote about Nevada's federal bench in August 2009, the bench was all male, not counting bankruptcy and magistrates. I suggested it was time again for Reid to recommend qualified females. Reid is doing exactly that with Miranda Du and Elissa Cadish.

Now, will the Senate confirm especially in an election year? Lane Ann Morrison's column appears Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Email her at [Jane@reviewjournal.com](mailto:Jane@reviewjournal.com) or call her at (702) 383-0275. She also blogs at [ljvm.com](http://ljvm.com)

~~REVIEW JOURNAL~~  
BY JANE ANN MORRISON  
~~Columnist~~  
Miranda Du, a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in Reno, got tired of waiting for confirmation and withdrew her nomination. Landreth and Garcia-Mendoza also cited personal reasons.

Not everyone pulls out. Reid nominated Miranda Du of Reno to replace another judge who took senior status, Roger Hunt. She is awaiting a vote by the full Senate. An immigrant from

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**EXHIBIT J**

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Review-Journal
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Saturday, February 19, 2000  
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# Reid pick for judge opts out

Nevada's senior senator selects a bankruptcy judge, Linda Riegle, as his newest choice for U.S. District Court.

By A.D. Hopkins  
[Review-Journal](#)

Linda Riegle, a Las Vegas federal bankruptcy judge, is Sen. Harry Reid's new choice to fill a U.S. District Court judgeship in Nevada.

Las Vegas attorney Eva Garcia-Mendoza, previously announced as Reid's choice, said she had withdrawn her name from consideration.

"I still wanted to have a woman for that spot," Reid said Friday. "Because the year is winding down legislatively, I needed somebody who I could get approved quickly."

Because Riegle has experience on the federal bench, her appointment can be expected to move more quickly than another candidate's might. The Democratic senator is forwarding Riegle's name to the White House for consideration for the presidential appointment, which requires Senate confirmation:

Garcia-Mendoza became the second person to withdraw in a few months -- and the fourth in recent years -- after being picked by Reid for a coveted lifetime appointment on the federal bench. Steve Walther, a Reno attorney, backed out in December after Reid selected him in October for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Walther cited his wife's birth of a child as his reason for withdrawal. Reid then chose Jeanne Rawlinson, who now sits on the U.S. District Court bench in Las Vegas, for the appeals seat. Reid selected Garcia-Mendoza, then Riegle, to fill the seat Rawlinson will vacate.

A year ago, Chief Deputy District Attorney


**Eva Garcia-Mendoza**

Victoria Villegas withdrew her name from consideration for a judgeship after Reid recommended her, citing frustration with the protracted nomination and confirmation process. Reid nominated Villegas in 1997 at the same time he announced he was recommending U.S. Attorney Kathryn Landreth for a position being vacated by U.S. District Judge Lloyd George, who took senior status in 1997. Landreth also withdrew her name, saying that she needed time "to address some other personal missions." She also expressed concern that it could take as long as two years to win approval.

Speed is important, said Reid's staff, because the judges of the Nevada federal district carry some of the heaviest caseloads in the nation and can ill afford vacancies in their ranks. However, Republican senators have been slow with presidential nominations, hoping to delay many until a Republican occupies the White House and can fill the positions.

Riegle, 51, was appointed to the bankruptcy court in 1988 and was the first woman to serve on the federal bench in Nevada. From 1993 to 1999 she was the court's chief bankruptcy judge. Previously she practiced both bankruptcy and commercial law at Lionel, Sawyer & Collins, where she became the first female partner in 1983.

"She's just a very nicely balanced person, rich in common sense," said George, who ruled on many cases she brought to court as a lawyer and also worked with her as a colleague. "She also deals nicely with people in the administration of a court, which is very important in having people get along."

Riegle could not be reached for comment, but Reid's staff quoted her as saying she was "honored and humbled" her name is being forwarded for consideration.

Growing up on a farm near Greenville, Ohio, Riegle used to get teased about her love of debate, she told a Review-Journal reporter in 1983. "People would say you should be a lawyer," she related.

She took them at their word and graduated from Albany Law School in New York after undergraduate studies at Shepherd College in West Virginia. She first worked for Lionel, Sawyer & Collins as a law school intern and was

hired full time in 1977.

Garcia-Mendoza said, "Riegle is a dynamite lady, extremely bright and quick to grasp issues. ... She'll be good."

Garcia-Mendoza said she withdrew after fully considering the opportunity, which came up on short notice in December, when Reid floated her name. "I never got a chance to talk to the senator about this. He called my husband on a Sunday and said, 'I've selected Eva.' My husband said it was a great opportunity, but the more I got into it, the more I saw it would affect our lives. And it's not where we want to go. We don't want to change our lives that much."

Garcia-Mendoza is married to John Mendoza, who formerly served as a judge in Clark County District Court.

She worked as a translator in that court before attending law school and being admitted to the Nevada Bar in 1981. Now 49, Garcia-Mendoza has been active in immigration law issues. On the Martindale-Hubbell Web site, which rates lawyers by confidential opinion from other attorneys, she is rated BV. The rating indicates "high to very high legal ability and very high ethical standards."

Garcia-Mendoza said she wasn't dissuaded by the scrutiny that would come with the federal investigation preceding all nominations to the federal bench. "My file never got that far," she said, "but my career is pretty much an open book."

She was once disciplined lightly by the Nevada State Bar for splitting fees with a private detective. "The state bar said it would have been all right to give him a bonus at the end of the year, but to do it on a per case basis was wrong. That was news to him and news to me and probably every member of the bar," she said.

Reid has two other selections pending approval for new seats on the District Court. They are Kent Dawson, a Henderson justice of the peace, and Roger Hunt, a federal magistrate.

"We're moving along very well now," Reid said. "I think we should get the Rawlinson appointment very soon, and the others will take a little longer." He said the mandatory Justice Department investigation of Rawlinson and approval by a committee of the American Bar Association are complete, and nothing else is

LAS VEGAS RJ:NEWS: Reid pick for judge opts out

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required in her case except the president's approval and the Senate's agreement.

If all are approved, the judges of the Nevada District will select replacements for Hunt and Riegle's current positions, a Reid spokesman said.

E-mail this story to a friend: